

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-20 (canceled).

Claim 21 (currently amended): A device for equalizing changes in level between a ground area surface extending over a ground structure and a frame for closing means of an installation projecting into a ground structure therebelow, the frame having an interior chamber covered by the closing means, comprising a plate-shaped dragging body connected to the closing means frame and projecting horizontally into the ground structure ~~below~~ between a carrying layer thereof and a frost road bed of the ground structure so as to transfer the changes in level to the closing means frame, the plate-shaped dragging body being a separate structural element which supports the closing means frame on an upper side thereof, and the plate-shaped dragging body having a hole leading from the interior chamber of the frame to the installation.

Claim 22 (previously presented): A device according to claim 21, wherein at least one telescope part variably

extending the installation in upward direction extends from the plate-shaped dragging body downwards into the installation.

Claim 23 (previously presented): A device according to claim 22, wherein the telescope part is frictionally connected to the plate-shaped dragging body.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A device according to claim 22, wherein the telescope part has a lower portion slidably engaging an outer side of a stationary body connected to the installation.

Claim 25 (previously presented): A device according to claim 24, wherein the stationary body is frictionally connected to the installation by an equalization fastening element.

Claim 26 (currently amended): A device according to claim 22, wherein the telescope part ~~with its~~ has a lower portion slidably engaging an inner side of a guide body connected to the installation.

Claim 27 (previously presented): A device according to claim 26, wherein the guide body is connected to the installation by an equalizing fastening element.

Claim 28 (currently amended): A device according to claim 22, wherein the telescope part has two portions arranged one above the other, an upper one of which is connected to the plate-shaped dragging body, and a lower one slidingly engages a said guide body connected to the installation.

Claim 29 (previously presented): A device according to claim 22, wherein the telescope part slidingly engages an upper stationary body part connected to a bellows-type or corrugated deformation element.

Claim 30 (previously presented): A device according to claim 29, wherein the deformation element is externally surrounded by a protective shell.

Claim 31 (previously presented): A device according to claim 22, wherein the telescope part is connected to the plate-shaped dragging body by an element for level equalization.

Claim 32 (previously presented): A device according to claim 22, wherein the closing means frame is supported on the plate-shaped dragging body by an element for level equalization.

Claim 33 (previously presented): A device according to claim 21, wherein the closing means frame is connected to the plate-shaped dragging body by an equalizing fastening element.

Claim 34 (previously presented): A device according to claim 21, wherein the plate-shaped dragging body has an abutment web located externally of the closing means frame.

Claim 35 (previously presented): A device according to claim 21, wherein the dragging body is an annular plate.

Claim 36 (previously presented): A device according to claim 21, wherein the plate-shaped dragging body is provided with radially extending stiffening ribs.

Claims 37-40 (canceled).

Claim 41 (currently amended): A method for mounting a device for equalizing changes in level between a ground area surface extending over a ground structure and a frame for closing means of an installation projecting into a ground structure therebelow, the frame having an interior chamber covered by the closing means, comprising a plate-shaped dragging body connected to the closing means frame and projecting horizontally into the ground structure ~~below~~ between

a carrying layer thereof and a frost road bed of the ground structure so as to transfer the changes in level to the closing means frame, the plate-shaped dragging body being a separate structural element which supports the closing means frame on an upper side thereof, and the plate-shaped dragging body having a hole leading from the interior chamber of the frame to the installation, which comprises the steps of

- (a) placing a spacer on the installation or a stationary body connected thereto before the ground structure is completed by applying the carrying layer,
- (b) placing a telescope part over the spacer,
- (c) covering the telescope part, and completing and compacting the ground structure below the carrying layer,
- (d) thereafter uncovering the telescope part, and placing the plate-shaped dragging body over the telescope part, and
- (e) then applying the carrying layer over the plate-shaped dragging body.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The mounting method of claim 41, wherein the telescope part is covered by engaging the telescope part with a cover.

Claim 43 (previously presented): The mounting method of claim 42, wherein the cover is sealed to the telescope part.